

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-14 AID-05 HA-05 PC-05 ACDA-12

/121 W

-----049724 310838Z /14

R 300932Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9404

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS TUNIS 9225

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TS

SUBJECT: BOURGUIBA WELCOMES HIS NEW GOVERNMENT

REF: (A) TUNIS 9175, (B) TUNIS 9146, (C) TUNIS 9156, (D) TUNIS 9128

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS DEC 29, YESTERDAY, AT 11 A.M. (DEC 28), PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA RECEIVED HIS NEWLY-APPOINTED GOVERNMENT AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN CARHAGE. OE APOLOGIZED FOR THE INFREQUENCY OF SUCH MEETINGS DUE TO THE STATE OF HIS HEALTH. HE URGED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE THEIR DUTIES FAITHFULLY, AND REMINDED THEM THAT HE HAD SACRIFICED HIS YOUTH TO THE SERVICE OF TUNISIA AND HAD CONSECRATED HIS LIFE TO HER SERVICE. HE LATER REMARKED THAT HE WAS NOW PLACING FULL CONFIDENCE IN HIS NEW MINISTERS AND THAT "HE DOESN'T EASILY WITHDRAW SUCH CONFIDENCE."

2. HE CONTINUED BY RETRACING THE EVOLUTION OF TUNISIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH FRANCE FROM ONE OF COLONIALISM TO ONE UNCLASSIFIED

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OF TWO FRIENDLY SOVEREIGN NATIONS. HE TOUCHED UPON TUNISIA'S LINKS WITH ALGERIA AND LIBYA, AND REMARKED THAT "HE FELT REASSURED AS TO TUNISIA'S FUTURE AND WHAT WILL BECOME OF HER AFTER HE IS GONE." BOURGUIBA NEXT WARNED THAT THE ONLY DANGER WHICH MIGHT BEFALL HER WOULD COME FROM WITHIN. HE CALLED FOR EACH OF THE NEW MINISTERS TO HELP LIBERATE THE COUNTRY FROM UNDERDEVELOPMENT

AND TO STRIVE TOWARD A "DECENT INCOME" FOR ALL TUNISIANS.

3. THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED IN A FRANK AND MELANCHOLY VALEDICTORY ABOUT HIS DECLINING HEALTH AND RAPID AGING. IN THE SAME VEIN, BOURGUIBA TURNED TO PRAISE PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA AND RECALLED AT LENGTH THEIR PRISON DAYS UNDER THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES, AND THEIR LATER EXPERIENCES DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR WITH BOTH THE ALLIES AND THE AXIS POWERS. HE THEN RETURNED TO PRESENT-DAY TUNISIA, AND AFTER RECALLING MANY OF THE SUCCESSES OF NOUIRA'S CAREER AND SERVICE TO THE STATE, THE PRESIDENT CONFERRED UPON HIM AN ENDORSEMENT, SAYING "HE HAS BEEN MY COMPANION IN THE BATTLE AND HE NOW ENJOYS MY COMPLETE CONFIDENCE." HE THEN CHARGED ALL OF HIS MINISTERS -- OLD AND NEW -- TO WORK WITH AND TO MAINTAIN THE BEST OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA FOR THE STRENGTHENING AND CONSOLIDATION OF NATIONAL UNITY.  
MULCAHY

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Subject:** BOURGUIBA WELCOMES HIS NEW GOVERNMENT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, TS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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